

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) A catheter, comprising:

a tubular body having a distal region;

a ring member encircling at least a portion of the circumference of the tubular body, the ring member being slidable along the tubular body; and

at least one elongate member having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end of the elongate member being coupled to the distal region of the tubular body and the proximal end being directly attached to the ring member.

2. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the tubular body includes an inner lumen, an outer surface, and a pair of openings passing between the outer surface and the inner lumen and the coupling of the elongate member to the distal region of the tubular body comprises the elongate member passing through the pair of openings.

3. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 2, wherein the elongate member passes between the ring member and the pair of openings along the outer surface of the tubular body.

- 4 - 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the elongate member comprises a single length of a thread passing between the distal region of the catheter and the ring member.

8. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, further comprising a connector piece being directly attached to a proximal region of the tubular body.

9. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the distal region of the tubular body defines at least a first stiffness over a substantial portion thereof and a proximal region of the tubular body defines at least a second stiffness over a substantial portion thereof, which second stiffness is less than the first stiffness.

10. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 9, wherein the tubular body defines at least the first stiffness from a distal end thereof to the proximal region defining the second stiffness.

11 - 65. (Cancelled).

66. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:

a first elongate member having a distal region;

a protruding member slidably coupled to the first elongate member and extending outward from an outer surface of the first elongate member; and

a second elongate member having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end of the second elongate member being coupled to the distal region of the first elongate member and the proximal end of the second elongate member being directly attached to the protruding member.

67. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 66, wherein the first elongate member includes an inner lumen, an outer surface, and a pair of openings passing between the outer surface and the inner lumen and the coupling of the second elongate member to the distal region of the first elongate member comprises the second elongate member passing through the pair of openings.

68. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 67, wherein the second elongate member passes between the protruding member and the pair of openings along the outer surface of the first elongate member.

69 - 71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 66, wherein the second elongate member comprises a single length of a thread passing between the distal region of the catheter and the protruding member.

73. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 66, further comprising a connector piece being directly attached to a proximal region of the first elongate member.

74. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 66, wherein the distal region of the first elongate member defines at least a first stiffness over a substantial portion thereof and a proximal region of the first elongate member defines at least a second stiffness over a substantial portion thereof, which second stiffness is less than the first stiffness.

75. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 74, wherein the first elongate member defines at least the first stiffness from a distal end thereof to the proximal region defining the second stiffness.